

## Georgia Recovery Corps



The *Georgia Recovery Corps* was a one-year, \$1.5 million special initiative of AmeriCorps programming designed to assist Georgians in the areas of employment readiness skills, housing, energy efficiency and home foreclosure counseling. The programs primarily served the metro Atlanta, Albany, Macon, Athens and Augusta areas. **American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)** funds supported programs from June 15, 2009, through June 14, 2010. Sixty-four AmeriCorps members served in the *Georgia Recovery Corps* during that period.

Recovery Corps members helped communities in Georgia by:

- recruiting more than 1,083 volunteers to serve more than 8,331 clients
- providing employment and skills training to 6,704 clients
- rehabilitating / weatherizing 20 homes
- providing foreclosure and housing assistance to 483 persons
- training 201 immigrant clients in financial literacy.

### Getting Things Done

Participants enrolled in AmeriCorps programs are referred to as “members” (not volunteers). These full time AmeriCorps members are required to complete at least 1,700 hours during a one-year term of service. Fifty-one Recovery Corps members successfully completed their commitment, making them eligible to receive education scholarships totaling more than \$240,000. With more than 100,000 hours of member service to communities around the state recorded, the Georgia Recovery Corps had a targeted impact that improved lives and living conditions of people in need.

### A Life Transformed through Service

When AmeriCorps Recovery Member Katrina Word left her career in corporate America, it was a decision that she never regretted. Her decision to join the Youth Villages Recovery Corps in Douglasville was one that would change her life. Youth Villages, a not-for profit residential facility serving youth with emotional and behavioral changes, caught her attention because the corps members engage in literacy tutoring, GED coaching, experiential learning activities and programs such as West African drumming and ropes courses. During her service year, Katrina and the other Recovery Corps team members were instrumental in developing the volunteer management program that is currently in operation at Youth Villages. After completing her term of service, Katrina was offered a position with Youth Villages as the volunteer coordinator. The volunteer program later expanded to include a mentoring program which currently serve more than a third of the youth on the campus. This program allows Youth Village the ability to bring corporate and community groups on campus to engage in meaningful service. The Recovery Corps service experience allowed Katrina to pursue a new career path as well as build important new relationships between the Youth Villages campus and the Douglas County community. *“I wanted a career that inspired me and helped others” Katrina says, “I no longer ask myself if this is the career I truly want, I’m certain of it every day.”*



## Georgia Recovery Corps Program Overview

Program Name	Program Overview
<b>Albany Police Cadets</b>	Law enforcement initiative focused on reducing gang activity and enhancing job skills for young adults. Job skills training included job search, interview and resume writing to young adults in high risk communities.
<b>Green Collar – Cobb Housing Inc.</b>	Twenty homes received rehabilitation, weatherization, and/or efficient-energy services in North Georgia and Metro Atlanta area.
<b>Home Rescue – Cobb Housing Inc.</b>	Home foreclosure and housing assistance program worked with HUD-certified housing counselors.
<b>Green Corps- GA State University</b>	“Green” jobs training program focused on recycling and energy audits programs and building weatherization in twelve metro area schools.
<b>Hands On Network</b>	Re-employment service and volunteer placement program. Assisted with Georgia’s Work Ready Initiative trainings by proctoring assessment test.
<b>Macon Police Cadets</b>	Police cadet program targeted on two high poverty and high unemployment rate neighborhoods. Program focused on volunteer recruitment, community partnerships, and skills training for unemployed.
<b>Refugee Resettlement &amp; Immigration Service of Atlanta (RRISA)</b>	Employment skills, financial planning, and English language and U.S. culture classes for refugee communities in Fulton and DeKalb counties.
<b>Youth Villages - Inner Harbour</b>	Created a volunteer management system to assist the organization.